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DURING THE WEEK ENDING MAY 6, THE JOURNAL CIRCULATED 250,000 COPIES; DAILY AVERAGE, 42,842.

Weather Forecast for Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—For Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Arkansas: Probably showers and cooler Tuesday; partly cloudy Wednesday; fair and warmer.

For Iowa: Partly cloudy; increasing cloudiness Wednesday; southerly wind.

For Missouri: Fair Tuesday, with warmer in northeast portion; probably showers Wednesday; variable winds.

For Kansas and Nebraska: Increasing cloudiness Tuesday; showers and cooler Wednesday; southerly winds.

For Colorado: Partly cloudy and cooler Tuesday; probably fair Wednesday; variable winds.

THE RAILROADS AND THE PEOPLE.

Using for his introductory the fact that the Santa Fe recently filed a large mortgage in Kansas, ex-Senator Peffer constructs an editorial in which he sets forth what he conceives to be the chief cause of complaint against the transportation companies. It is that the railroads not only compel the people to pay interest on the true value of the railroad properties, but also upon debts created by the companies in excess of these values. He illustrates his claim by representing that the true valuation of all such properties in the United States is but \$5,000,000,000, whereas they are capitalized at \$11,000,000,000, and then says: "The people have to pay tolls on the companies' debts as well as the property used in their business. The goods are worth five and the people have to pay charges on eleven."

This has long been the contention of the anti-railroad crusaders, and there is nothing new in Mr. Peffer's article, but it is surprising that a man who is supposed to be fairly well informed should fall into such an error. However, it is but another example of the unfair, not to say purposeful, false, arguments used on every occasion by the Populist leaders, and the misstatement here may not be due so much to the writer's ignorance as to his intolerable political prejudice.

In the first place, the railroads of the United States are not capitalized in the sum of six billions more than their true value. Mr. Peffer has invented these figures, for they are to be found in no reputable book of statistics.

In the second place, the people are not taxed to pay interest on the true value and the excess value combined, for it has been many years since the railroads of the country earned enough to pay even a moderate rate of interest on their assessed value, let alone their true or capitalized value. In the last year for which the interstate commerce commission has given us statistics the railroads of the country were capitalized at \$10,953,000,000, distributed as follows: Capital stock, \$5,661,000,000; funded debt or bonds, \$4,610,000,000; and miscellaneous debts to fill up the balance. This amounts to \$62,000 a mile for the whole railroad system of the country, and a congressional committee which investigated a few years ago reported that this was not far away from the sum that would be required to replace the properties. So much for the charge of overcapitalization.

In the last year reported by the interstate commerce commission it was found that 71 per cent of the capital stock paid no dividends at all; that of the 29 per cent which paid dividends, the very highest was 6 per cent; that of the bonds more than 17 per cent paid no dividends, and that for the year the whole railroad system, after paying operating expenses and fixed charges, found itself confronted with a deficit of \$2,553,000. So far from compelling the people to pay interest on excess or double value the railroads of the country did not in the year given earn enough to pay the interest on the bonds which in total are a far less sum than the true value of the properties, even as given by Mr. Peffer.

The railroad companies, at least those in the West, have never set up the right to earn interest on all of their bonds, stocks, and other divisions of capitalization, irrespective of the value of their property. In the Nebraska rate case carried to the supreme court it was held that the companies had the right to earn a fair interest on the value of their plants, and the doctrine was distinctly enunciated that state legislatures were bound, in passing rate laws, only by this limitation. Mr. Peffer would have his readers believe that quite the contrary is the established law and practice, and that under the rulings of our highest court there is no power to stop the collection from the people of money which with to pay interest on any fictitious or excessive capitalization.

Mr. Peffer has named the Santa Fe and is addressing himself to the people of Kansas with the aim of convincing them that this road is taking extortionate profits. By consulting the late report of the state board of railroad commissioners we discover that the net earnings of this road for the year 1897, the most prosperous in its history, were but 2 1/2 per cent on a valuation of \$30,000,000, a low valuation as all must admit. This result is obtained by allowing to Kansas her pro rata share of all the business passing through or in any way connected with that state's mileage. When we come to the business belonging solely to Kansas (including Kansas City, however, as a Kansas point) it is found that the net earnings of the Santa Fe for this year amounted to only 1 1/3 per cent on a valuation of but \$15,000,000 per mile. To put it in another way, the property of this road in Kansas is assessed for taxation at an average of \$7.25 per mile, and the net revenues on the business done between Kansas points, including Kansas City, were but 2 1/3-100 per cent on such assessed valuation.

In the light of these statistics—statistics which are contained in the official publications of Kansas and the nation, and which ought to be very familiar to Mr. Peffer—it is difficult to understand where he gets authority for the belief that "the people have to pay tolls on the companies' debts as

well as property used in their business." It is a fact that the railroads of the United States have not been earning fair interest on even a small portion of their capital. During the six years spent by Mr. Peffer in the upper house of congress—years spent in exploiting many of the bad policies in government which brought our country to prostration—the railroads went through wholesale bankruptcy such as visited no other industry. If they are now participating a little in returned prosperity it should be a matter of gratification to all right thinking men, for in no other business in our land did hard times swallow so much capital that was totally lost. At any rate they are entitled to just, if not sympathetic, treatment in the public journals, and the Populist crusade against them ought to come to an end.

THE BEEF REPORT.

The authorized summary of the beef inquiry board's report does not reveal any essential facts not set forth in the careful forecast of a few days ago, but there are some additional details.

First of all, the charge made by General Miles that refrigerated beef supplied to the army had been treated chemically, or "embalmed"—the most sensational charge made by the commander of the army—is not sustained. It is found that canned beef is not a good army ration for continuous use, but that the character of this ration is the same as that of the canned beef supplied to commerce. Its unfitness, so far as the beef discussion bears, was in its too free use in a hot climate. General Miles is sustained on the lesser of his two sensational charges and stands guilty of misrepresentation on the other. He is formally censured only for not having more promptly reported to the government his information concerning both canned and refrigerated beef. This censure was inevitable from the first.

General Eagan is censured for too large purchases of canned beef, and this censure is justified by the testimony as to its unfitness for a continuous ration in a hot climate. The packers are held blameless for conditions of canned beef, and, of course, the finding as to refrigerated beef relieves them of the charge of "embalming."

It is evident that the board of inquiry has placed censure only where it was absolutely necessary, doubtless with a view to saving all concerned as much as possible from the disgrace of exposing their faults. Certainly if there had been a desire to give General Miles as severe a rebuke as the circumstances would permit, much could have been said against his attack upon the government through the newspapers instead of making his complaints to the war department, where they belonged. The recommendation, too, that no further proceedings be taken, is evidence of generosity. It is certainly true that for other than most flagrant faults the publication of the facts is severe discipline, at least in a military investigation, for, generally speaking, there is a vast difference between military pride and other kinds.

The yellow journals that have defended Miles from the first are saying little about the "embalmed" beef business these days. They stick to the canned beef question, insist that the man they exploited has been vindicated, and charge the board directly or indirectly with having started out to do a certain thing and having done it regardless of the evidence. They profess, too, that they are unable to account for censure of Miles, since his charges as to canned beef have been sustained. But no matter. The country places high confidence in the members of this board and their findings, regardless of the one-sided attacks of the yellow journals.

THE WESTPORT SCHOOL ELECTION.

The voters of Westport will have an opportunity to-day to ratify the action of the school boards of that city and Kansas City proper as to the annexation of the Westport schools. It is believed that this election, which is a necessary formality to a general consolidation of the schools of Greater Kansas City, will result in an almost unanimous vote for the ratification, and yet this very confidence may lead to indifference. Every voter of the old borough of Westport must cast a ballot to-day. The annexation of the schools is desirable not only because it will bring under one general, non-partisan administration all of the schools of the extended Kansas City, but because it is to the interest of the taxpayers of Westport to effect the consolidation. There certainly can be no valid educational or economical reason why the schools should not be consolidated, and there are many reasons why they should be. It must not be forgotten, though, that there is a possibility of defeat through the indifference of those who would be both surprised and chagrined if the election should go the wrong way.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It would be a great joke on Andrew Carnegie if the country shouldn't go to destruction after all.

We are prepared to read in the dispatches almost any day now that General Otis is about to move on "the Filipino capital."

Notwithstanding his many aquatic performances the promotion of young Funston has not caused his head to swim.

Mr. Bryan is compelled to glare very intently at imperialism in order to avoid seeing the evidence of prosperity at home.

Those big expansion mass meetings in Chicago make that little affair of the college professors look like 30 cents in Mexican money.

As a guardian of his country against the dangers of manifest destiny the Hon. John Sherman seems to have gone to sleep on his seat.

The "standing room only" notice has not yet been posted in the vestibule of Hon. J. Sterling Morton's new party. It seems there are a few seats left.

President McKinley must be careful. He would feel decidedly cheap if Governor Thomas should take Colorado under his arm and walk out of the Union.

Those who have observed the course of the present legislature will have no difficulty

in understanding why this state continues to be referred to as "poor old Missouri."

Just what measures Governor Thomas will take is not known, but it is suspected that he will call the Colorado legislature together and impeach the president and secretary of war.

The yellow sheets are yelling that the president was afraid to remove Miles. And so he was, in the same sense that the court is afraid to hang a convict who has only been guilty of criminal libel.

The Republican orators are not doing much talking at present, but the bank clearings, the records of exports and the increases of wages are making eloquent Republican campaign arguments.

A higher testimonial to the wisdom and fairness of the board's report could not be desired than the unqualified condemnation of the yellow journals. The board should feel handsomely complimented.

The report that Admiral Dewey is in perfect health is gratifying, but it would be well for him to toughen up by taking a course of athletic training before coming home to meet his admiring countrymen.

We are inclined to think that notwithstanding his energy and enterprise General Funston will not be able to fill the offices of governor, United States senator and vice president all at one and the same time.

Hon. Billy Bryan is not insisting on his original proposition that wheat and silver are running mates, but he wants it understood that silver and Bryan are still running mates. However, neither is making much of a run.

The sessions of the Trans-Mississippi congress are always interesting, but the presence of President McKinley will make the forthcoming one at Wichita unusually so. The president thinks he will be able to attend this gathering on his trip through the West.

General Merritt says he hugs himself because he is an American citizen, and the Washington Post suggests that he might "leave that to his pretty young wife." But his pretty young wife has her hands full—or rather her arms full—in hugging him for other reasons.

The report that the Kansas state fair has offered General Funston and the Twentieth Kansas \$100 to swim the Arkansas river to "show how it was done" is too absurd to be true, of course. The fair managers should lose no time in denying the ridiculous story.

KANSAS TOPICS.

No Politics for Funston.

The two Kansas men who have been closer to General Funston than anyone else are C. S. Gled, of Topeka, and C. F. Scott, of Jola. Mr. Gled is confident that nothing could be more distasteful to Funston than political life, and he feels sure that circumstances cannot induce the young soldier to become a candidate for any office. Mr. Scott agrees with this opinion. In an editorial in his Jola Register he says: "As a matter of fact, it would be a punishment instead of a reward to push Fred Funston into politics. We do not want to be misunderstood. If Fred Funston decides after he comes home that he would like to take a turn in politics, this paper will be for him for anything he wants. But for heaven's sake let the boy alone now! Don't force upon him the humiliating alternative of either declining an office to which he has not yet been elected, or keeping still and giving out the impression that he wants something. He is the central and heroic figure now on the stage of the grandest drama this world has to show, the battlefield; do not keep shrieking at him that he must hurry and get off of it and come down into the pit of politics—the pit and the mire lay."

Determined to Cut Ice.

In connection with the possibility of General Funston having a political ambition, J. W. Gled tells a story which gives much insight into the character of the day Funston sailed away to join the insurgent forces in Cuba, and accompanied him to the steamer to say good-by. While the pair were talking at the steamer landing Funston spoke of his probable future and said:

"Willis, I have no ambition to get rich. I wouldn't go into politics for anything. I am afraid I have no settled aim or clear-cut ambition. But nevertheless I intend to cut some ice in the world, and I intend to keep hustling until my time comes."

This yearning to cut ice has been manifest in all the movements of the restless, tireless, always moving young Kansas soldier. He has searched for his opportunity from the Arctic to the equator. Never staying anywhere long, he has dropped one thing after another in a fashion that made his friends fear he was a changeable and unstable. But now they begin to comprehend that it was the eagerness and fretfulness of a mighty ambition, and that what they deplored in him was the very characteristic that was to lead him on home, glory. At last, 10,000 miles away from home, he found a chance to cut the ice of his ambition, and in cutting he cut a plenty.

George Peck's Tribute.

George R. Peck loses none of his interest in Kansas history and Kansas people. In sending J. W. Gled a generous contribution to the Alford memorial, now being raised among the alumni and faculty and regents and ex-regents of the university, Mr. Peck says:

"I need not tell you with what pride I have watched the career of the Twentieth Kansas, and now that the whole world is ringing with its praises, I try to take some little glory for myself, because I once was a citizen of that great state. I did not know Lieutenant Alford personally, but I knew his father and his associates and his friends in Lawrence and at the university, and I feel in respect to his death as if some boy of my own neighborhood had fallen."

"The country needs, as you have suggested, tablets to the memory of the young scholars who have given their lives for their country. I am glad of the opportunity to be one of those who will contribute to placing a permanent memorial in the university to the memory of this gallant young hero who was the first alumnus to die in battle."

Anti-Granger Grimshaw Dead.

H. H. Grimshaw, a unique character, died at Paola, one day last week. For many years Mr. Grimshaw had been proprietor of a hotel that was noted far and wide for its neat appearance and good fare. It was not a hotel in fact, but a home at which the public might put up. Some years ago Mr. Grimshaw highly offended the farmers of his neighborhood by printing and circulating a business card which contained the following sort of rates for his tavern: "Grangers, \$3 a day; actors, \$2.50 a day; traveling men and other citizens, \$2 a day." He did not want the farmers' custom and took this means to drive it away—succeeding in his aim, as may well be understood.

Something New in "History."

A man in Haskell county has written a history of Kansas and made it a candidate before the state schoolbook commission for selection as a textbook in the public schools. The value of this work may be best appreciated after reading the following paragraph from one of its chapters: "Up to this date Kansas had now had nine governors, and as the next campaign was also a presidential campaign, the people took great interest in the speaking upon the issues brought forward by both political parties. Contrary to all expectation the state went Democratic and elected John A. Martin as governor."

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Brave Lieutenant Warner.

Charles E. Warner, who has just been commissioned as second lieutenant on the recommendation of General Fred Funston, enlisted as a private at Fort Scott. In all the battles in which the Twentieth Kansas engaged he served as orderly to the colonel, and a letter to the Fort Scott Monitor relates that he hung to the heels of Funston through thick and thin. He was wounded, not seriously, at the same time Funston received a bullet through his hand. He is a son of W. E. Warner, cashier for the Missouri Pacific at Fort Scott.

The Wounded Officers.

Mrs. Jessie Hausserman, who is with her husband, Lieutenant Hausserman, in the Philippines campaign, writes to the wife of Captain Adna Clarke in Lawrence that the captain is recovering from his serious wound and will soon be around again. Speaking of the other wounded, Mrs. Hausserman says that Major Metcalf was shot through the foot, but refused to leave the fighting line and led his battalion to the end of the battle. Which shows what kind of a man it is that has been promoted to command the regiment, and makes Kansas confident that in the future her fighting boys will lose none of their fine reputation.

Can Write If He Wants To.

Naturally there is a great deal of Funston literature in the Kansas papers now. A paper having remarked recently that the only fear Kansas had was that the general might go to writing for the magazine, the Emporia Gazette comments as follows:

"Why so? He is a good writer. He made a living off the trade of writing before he learned 'the gentle art of murdering.' He was paid 3 cents a word for his stuff by Scribner's four years ago; the Century Company has bought his stuff. Harper's have printed it. Why should he stop now that he has something of general interest to write about? A cablegram left Emporia last night that cost nearly \$50, offering Funston his own price for a magazine article for the best paying magazine in the world. The captains of the ships that won at Santiago have written their stories for a magazine. General Wheeler has published a book. Why shouldn't Funston return to his old trade? He can turn out \$5,000 a year as a writer; why should he throw it over his shoulder?"

Compliment From the Colonel Major.

Everyone in Kansas knows Hon. Jack Harris, statesman, of Ottawa, and there will be state-wide appreciation of his equestrian abilities as thus set forth by Colonel Major Jeltz, of Topeka:

"One of the finest horseback riders in Ottawa is Hon. J. P. Harris, banker and postmaster of that burg, and a prominent member of the G. A. R. Mr. Harris is a veteran of the late war, while he might have been a private in the rear ranks of military tactics he is, however, one of the finest looking men, and a more graceful rider could not have been found in our late war, who equals him."

"His past time or moments is horseback riding and while in the city a few days ago we beheld the postmaster on a fine black horse, whose mane was long and beautiful, the bushy tail of this beautiful fire bred steed, and with his swift movements as Hon. J. P. Harris sped from South Main across to the North side, made everyone who witnessed the beautiful steed and graceful rider to marvel and admire. Of course the spectacle was one no doubt to be envied by some, and who wouldn't it was a fine scene. General Miles wouldn't equal this appearance."

MISSOURI POINTS.

An Ideal Spine.

"That's the right kind of a backbone to have," remarks the Springfield Republican in commendation of the declaration of Chairman Atkins that the state committee will demand the appointment of thirteen Republican census supervisors, and will get them or have none at all.

Significant Symptoms.

A Boone county Sunday school teacher, of whom the Columbia Herald tells, not long ago gave her class a rather graphic description of how Eve was created from the rib of Adam. "Mamma," said the youngest member of the class that same evening, pressing his hand to his side, "I'm afraid I'm going to have a wife."

Everybody Indorses It.

No matter how severe, and doubtless well deserved, the criticism of the legislature for its sins of omission and commission during the present session, a disposition on its part to show favor and liberality in its treatment of Missouri's great university should be encouraged and commended by every patriotic citizen, regardless of partisan bias.

Hardly a Fair Divide.

Democratic Brother Green, of the Brookfield Argus, continues to take a most gloomy view as to the benefit likely to accrue to the public from the \$50,000 or so which it is presumed the beer law will skin the brewers out of. He remarks: "Governor Stephens has signed the beer bill, and consequently it will become a law and will give the state \$5,000 or \$10,000 for bettering the roads."

Will Joplin Dig Up?

The road agents employed by Colonel Sam Cook in his capacity as official baggage passer for the national Democratic committee are not modest in their demands for contributions for the benefit of the faithful. One of them was in Joplin Saturday, the Herald says, interviewing the supporters of the 16 to 1 idea and intimat-

ing that the income fund for the holy cause should be fattened at least \$1,500 in that prosperous locality.

Democrats Are Up Against It.

The desperate straits to which the Democratic organs are reduced in their efforts to hoodwink their readers into a belief that the prosperity so evident on every hand does not actually exist are well illustrated in a recent labored attempt on the part of one of their ablest and most influential Missouri newspapers to show that the sale by the city of Carrollton a few days ago of a lot of low rate school bonds at a premium not only was no symptom of prosperity, but might easily be interpreted as demonstrating "a condition of dullness that is deplorable."

Oddities of an Old Ordinance.

Forty years last week the town of Providence, in Boone county (which now isn't able to maintain even the rank of a village in point of population), having just become incorporated, enacted a number of ordinances. One of them, which defined misdemeanors, prohibited card playing in grocery stores or where spirituous or vinous liquors are sold, under a fine of \$5, provided a \$15 penalty for the selling of liquor to a slave without written orders; forbade "fring of pistols or guns above high water mark except for killing beef, dog or game for food, or for shooting a dog;" stipulated for "ten stripes on bare back, well laid on by the marshal," as a punishment for drunken slaves, and prohibited the gathering of slaves in numbers of more than five, under penalty of five to fifteen stripes.

Likes His Navy Job in Cuba.

Lacy Prather, a Boone county boy who enlisted in the United States navy a year ago, finds service as Uncle Sam's sailor-man far from unpleasant thus far. "I have been all over the route of Morocco, where you have heard so much about," he writes his father from Santiago, Cuba, "and have seen most of the sunken Spanish ships and also the Merriweather. While on shore I saw the big tree under which the surrender was made, and was in the Spanish trenches. I inclose a piece of wood that came from the cell that Hobson occupied while a Spanish prisoner. The cell is at the top of the castle. At Loquia, South America, I saw a very exciting Spanish bull fight. I saw many other things of interest also. The weather is very warm here, but we have plenty to eat and not much to do and very little clothes to wear so we get along very nicely."

He Fell, but Rose Again.

There is an interesting story connected with the recent restoration of Rev. Mr. W. B. Wilkie, by unanimous vote of the presbytery at St. John's, Fla., to his former position as a minister of the Presbyterian church. Fifteen years ago Mr. Wilkie, then pastor of the Presbyterian church in Columbia, was upon trial in the presbytery of Missouri and found guilty of drunkenness and suspended from the ministry. Leaving Columbia Mr. Wilkie went to Florida and has since then led a quiet, retired life teaching. His character since then has been unblemished and his many kind deeds have been commented upon by all who came within the circle of his acquaintance. Several efforts have been made to restore him to the ministry, but without avail. A few weeks ago, however, a memorial from Rev. Mr. J. R. Bridges, supplemented by an eloquent appeal from Rev. Mr. W. W. Elwang and a petition from the officers of the Columbia church, caused the presbytery of Missouri to transfer the case to the presbytery of St. John's within the bounds of which Mr. Wilkie resides. This presbytery restored him to office.

Troubled About Prosperity.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

Papers of the ultra Bryan and Populist variety are beginning to be troubled about the good times. They seem to realize the force of the remark of Mayor Taggart last fall, that a Democratic victory cannot be expected as long as good times continue. Therefore they declare that the good times are deceptive—that there will be no real prosperity until the United States perfects a vast silver-bulldozing trust by stamping every 45 cents' worth of it. To them the outlook is not cheerful, and so they make it as cheerless as they can.

Unfortunately for Such Clones and News-papers.

Unfortunately for such clones and newspapers, but fortunately for the country, the people know better. Most of them read the newspapers, and when in one issue, as was the case on Monday, they read that 4,000 wage-earners in Cleveland had their wages advanced from 6 to 20 per cent, that 12,000 ironworkers in Birmingham, without solicitation, were given an advance of from 10 to 15 per cent, and that advances were announced in Reading, Pa., Springfield, O. and other places, the people will be tempted to the conclusion that prosperity of the substance sort has come very generally.

One of these papers declares that the prosperity is artificial, having been manipulated by Senator Hanna for political purposes. He is the bold, bad man who is inciting employers in extensive industries all over the country to increase wages and to make it appear that there is an unprecipitated rise in the cost of living in the country. Thereat they invent some new story designed to show the depravity of the man.

The Journal is not an admirer of Senator Hanna. Doubtless he does not care a fig, but the Journal has never taken to him. For that reason and others we would warn the agitated Bryan-Populist editor that he may overdo the Hanna talk. There is more labor shortage in the country than there has ever been in the country before. Workers are getting millions more as wages each week than they did three years ago. Never before did two-thirds of a million of men have their wages increased without asking. Now, if all these people whose condition has been improved by the better times should be persuaded by the Bryan-Populist editors that Senator Hanna has brought it about he would be the most popular man in the land. He could have anything he desired at the hands of those people. What if they should make Senator Hanna a popular idol? Dreadful thought!

Coming Around to McKinley.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The committee of the Republican house members appointed to draft a currency reform bill has finished its work. The measure it has prepared will be submitted soon to a committee of Republican senators, of which Senator Allison is chairman. It is approved of it will be laid before the senate and house caucuses next winter, and will probably be ratified by them. In that event its enactment into a law may be counted on.

The narrow escape the country had from a debased currency and consequent destruction of credits between 1833 and 1837 so terrified many persons as to cause them to believe that by rapid or revolutionary changes alone could the possibility of disaster at a future date be averted.

An urgent demand was made for the abandonment of the old currency system in toto—for the cancellation of greenbacks, for the melting down of most of the silver dollars and the sale of the bullion, and for the granting permission to the banks to issue an asset currency. President McKinley, being a deliberate, cool-headed man, did not jump at the conclusion that to avert danger everything must be changed. He confined himself to recommending modi-

fications of the present system, notably that greenbacks redeemed in gold should not be paid out again except for gold.

The changes he suggested in 1857 were characterized then as "hopelessly inadequate" by the supporters of radical measures. Nevertheless, the mass of the people seem to have accepted his views. The Republican caucus committee has done so, after its members have consulted their constituents. Thanks to the conservatism of the president, no rash currency reform scheme is to be enacted or to be recommended by the Republican party. No attempt is to be made by that party to substitute for notes based on government bonds notes made a first lien on commercial assets held by banks.

It is not known whether the bill contains a provision for the payment of all government obligations in gold coin instead of "coin." If it does not it should. For when the government is thus committed to the gold standard there cannot be a change to an inferior currency without the concurrent action of the president and both houses of congress. As the law is now, a free silver president could give orders to his secretary of the treasury which might have a damaging effect on the credit of the currency. The reaffirmation of the gold standard counts for more than the establishment of a bureau of issue and redemption.

A Young Men's Widow Club.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

In spite of the earnest admonition of the older Mr. Wilkie to his son Sam to "be wary of widows," a club has been organized at Peoria composed of young men who pledge themselves to marry none but widows. Over the threshold of this club will be nailed the words that will fill the hearts of the marriageable sinners with unutterable grief, "None but widows need apply."

It is difficult to discern a rational motive for the organization of such a club. Surely the widows are not in need of any movement of this character to force widowhood to a premium in the matrimonial market. The widows are doing fairly well without any club of this kind to shake the conjugal plumtree for them. Having been through the ordeal of one husband, they have marked all the outposts and bulwarks. They know where the blockhouses and intrenchments are located, and as for barbed wire fences, there is nothing so easy for them. They possess the strategy that comes from experience, and when they begin to wigwag terms of surrender to the besieged it is useless to throw any more shells. The sally trappings of grief do not interfere with the organization of the club. We fear it is a case of mistaken solicitude on the part of the young gentlemen of Peoria. The statistics of matrimony furnish abundant proof that the widows are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves, and they generally know what they want. You can fool some of the widows part of the time, but you can't fool all the widows all the time. As a matrimonial bureau or clearing house for widows the Peoria club has no excuse for existence.

The Inventing Devil.

From the New York Sun.

The Democratic newspapers are full of heated remarks about trusts, but an ever-ready exception to the rule, the Jefferson City Tribune, gives the simplest and clearest history and explanation of